

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/834,504

Examiner

James S. Wozniak

Applicant(s)

SHIMAKAWA, MASATO

Art Unit

2655

## -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 7/11/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5, 7, 9-18, 20, and 22-25 (now 1-11, 21, and 12-20, respectively).
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 13 April 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

### Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

W. R. YOUNG  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Amendment*

1. In response to the office action from 4/12/2005, the applicant has submitted an amendment, filed 7/11/2005, amending the claims 1, 2, 7, 13-15, and 20 and canceling claims 6, 8, 19, and 21. Due to the claim amendments, claims 1-5, 7, 9-18, 20, and 22-25 are allowable over the prior art of record for the below given reasons.

### *Allowable Subject Matter*

2. **Claims 1-5, 7, 9-18, 20, and 22-25** are allowable over the prior art of record.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to **Claims 1, 13, 14**, the prior art of record fails to explicitly teach or fairly suggest a method, system, or program stored on a computer readable medium for controlling multiple electronic devices on a speech recognition network using speech commands that are obtained for each device according to a predetermined priority hierarchy in the order of node, product, machine, and type identifications. The prior art of record also fails to explicitly teach or fairly suggest the aforementioned limitations in combination with managing obtained speech commands for each device based on a device connection status by adding commands when an electronic device is added to the network and temporarily storing speech commands when a

device is disconnected. The obtained speech commands are utilized in combination with a control command history to determine the electronic device for which a speech command is intended.

Other related prior art includes Geilhufe et al (*U.S. Patent: 6,584,439*), which teaches a means for controlling multiple appliances on a speech recognition network (*Col. 5, Lines 30-60*), but does not teach the acquisition of speech command data according to a priority order nor the management of speech command data depending on a device connection status.

The dependent claims further limit allowed independent claims, and thus, are also allowable over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### *Conclusion*

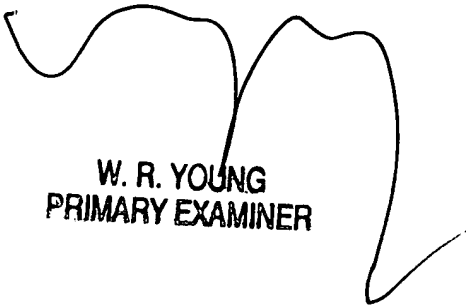
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James S. Wozniak whose telephone number is (571) 272-7632. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th, 7:30-5:00, F, 7:30-4, Off Alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wayne Young can be reached on (571) 272-7582. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

James S. Wozniak  
8/3/2005



W. R. YOUNG  
PRIMARY EXAMINER